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NSC BRIEFING

25 June 1958

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

CAMBODIA-SOUTH VIETNAM

- I. Cambodia has charged South Vietnamese forces have "invaded" Cambodian territory to depth of 4 miles, and has issued a "national call to arms."
- A. Incursion is alleged to have occurred in northeastern Cambodia, opposite the Pleiku region of Central Vietnam where Saigon 10 days ago charged Cambodian with changing border markers by force.
- B. Boundary in this remote area poorly defined and in dispute up to depth of several miles.
- C. Saigon reacted sharply to the reported incursion by Cambodian troops and apparently now has taken steps to restore the status quo.
- II. Saigon denies any invasion of Cambodian territory by its forces, and MAAG reports no evidence.
- A. However, routine preparations being made by Vietnamese army to conduct security sweep against local dissidents along the border may give rise to further alarm.
- III. There is danger of border warfare developing in the highly charged atmosphere.
- A. Exaggerated reports and misinformation from field are aggravating traditional suspicions and animosity.
- B. In addition South Vietnam has become convinced Cambodia is about to move toward more friendly relations with the bloc.

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IV. Prime Minister has called on US to force Saigon to withdraw or Cambodia will turn to other "friendly powers" for aid.

- A. Cambodia has thus far avoided diplomatic relations with Peiping because of fear of Communist subversion.
- B. Cambodian officials generally feel US will not support Phnom Penh in its disputes with South Vietnam and Thailand because of Cambodia's neutral foreign policy.

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